



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8

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Ref: 8EPR

APR 17 2008

Honorable Max Baucus
United States Senator
8 Third Street East
Kalispell, Montana 59923

Dear Senator Baucus:

Thank you for your letter of March 28, 2008, on behalf of Ms. Olivia Baer of Libby. Ms. Baer wrote to you requesting that the EPA remove asbestos-containing shingles from the roof of her home. I appreciate this opportunity to provide the following information in response to Ms. Baer's request.

The shingles on Ms. Baer's roof were made with chrysotile asbestos, and were a fairly common building material across the United States through the 1970s. They do not contain any amphibole asbestos, and in no way are connected to the asbestos contamination associated with the former vermiculite mine in Libby. As such, they are beyond the scope of our clean up actions in Libby.

While EPA's actions in Libby have included the removal of the amphibole asbestos associated with the former vermiculite mine, we have not routinely removed the chrysotile asbestos-containing consumer products found not only in Libby, but across the country. When EPA discovers such materials on a property in Libby, we inform the homeowner, and offer advice as to its condition, maintenance, and possible removal by a private contractor.

I hope this information will be useful in your responding to Ms. Baer. If you or your staff have additional questions regarding EPA's work in Libby, please contact me or Sandy Fells, Regional Congressional Liaison, at 303-312-6604.

Sincerely yours,

Carol Rushin
for

Robert E. Roberts
Regional Administrator